LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208

July 21, 1972

Dear Eric:

Just a line to acknowledge receipt of the copy of your letter of July 14th to Harry Dichter.

I am pleased that you acquired the Skin Plaster Jig, at what I consider a reasonable price. I know of only two other copies. Will be interested to know the title of the piece with the St. Louis street scene on the cover. Does it show the headquarters of the Compton and Doane music store?

All the best to you and Evelyn.

Sincerely,

Lester

Balmer + Weber
1-4th St - Dallas

July 28, 1972

Mr. Lester S. Levy
2 Slade Avenue
Pikesville, Maryland 21208

Dear Lester:

Thank you for your nice note. I did not realize the Shin Plaster Jig was so rare.

The St. Louis Street Scene is the headquarters of Balmer & Weber. The title on the cover shows "Fifth Street Series" but on the inside the title is "Fifth Street Polka."

I am now hopeful that Dichter will find the greenback item and the Riverfront St. Louis Scene which you showed me.

Evelyn joins me in sending all of you our very best.

We enjoyed meeting the Sirotas and the Levys when they were in St. Louis for a wedding.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:sw

LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208

October 5, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

I picked up the enclosed music sheet yesterday.

I realize that it does not represent a St. Louis view, but it is, nevertheless, an old and unusual St. Louis imprint, one I had never seen before. My guess is that it is from the period of the 1850's, though it is not dated.

It is obviously hand-colored, and the coloring is probably contemporary. At any rate, I thought you might enjoy having it.

With all good wishes to you and Evelyn, I am,

Sincerely,

Lester

Lester S. Levy

LSL:ew

Enc.

Seey Chas Grand Mach

October 9, 1972

Mr. Lester S. Levy
2 Slade Avenue
Pikesville, Maryland 21208

Dear Lester,

Thank you, very much, for the German song published by the German firm which had a branch in St. Louis. The scene, as you indicate, is not a St. Louis scene but the pig and the deer running around the pond are curious.

Your friend, Dichter, found for me Secretary Chase's "Grand March" which has a picture of Civil War Federal money on it and now all I need is the Dan Emmett's "Greenbacks". I am hopeful of finding one somewhere.

Evelyn is working very hard every day and our hobby time is somewhat limited by virtue of it. She joins me in sending you and yours our best.

Cordially,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

Eric Newman

LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208

January 26, 1973

Mr. Eric Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

Thanks so much for sending me the article in the Post Dispatch about Harold Lineback. I consider your brief comments appropriate.

Some years ago I entered into correspondence with him about some early editions of the "Star Spangled Banner", several of which were printed in St. Louis in the middle of the last century. Lineback indicated that he knew all about them, that he had copies, and that he would furnish me with photostats. As you can imagine, none ever came to me.

In fact, I have never been able to get any information at all about the man. I think your opinion of him is shared by Ernst Krohn, the veteran and highly knowledgable music collector, who lives in Webster Groves.

I hope that you and Evelyn have been well and that we might have the opportunity of seeing you again one of these days. With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Lester

LSL:ew

Lester S. Levy

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 8, 1978

Mr. Lester Levy
2 Slade Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208

Dear Lester:

I am two months out of a hip joint replacement and so I have followed your example. It seems to have worked well as I hear yours did.

I have read your latest books and hope you continue to have pleasure from them.

I have a question or so. I have two copies of "I wish I was in Dixie's Land", Firth Pond, N.Y. On the fourth page of one is an advertisement designated No. 1 dated 1860. On the fourth page of the other is an advertisement designated No. 3 and dated 1860. Are these first editions or not? Would you straighten me out. Thanks.

As you know, I collect music with lithographs of money on them. I have a few and just got "The Dime Polka" with a picture of a dime. I have been unable to get "How are your Greenbacks" (E. Bowers and Chas. Glover) and "Greenbacks" (Dan Emmett). Do you know anyone who has those and would trade or sell them?

I am enclosing a list of Atlanta published music which I located when I was with an antiquer in the East. If you need any of these I'll give you the dealer's name. He thinks they ought to be scarce.

My best to you,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208

August 29, 1978

Dear Eric:

Returning from vacation, I find your letter of August 8th.

"Dixie" has always been something of a problem. The accepted view is that it was published in New Orleans, some months before Firth Pond published it in New York. (See Jim Fuld's bibliography of first editions of jamboree songs, or Hans Nathan's "Dan Emmett and the Rise of American Negro Minstrelsy" (1962 - U. of Okla. Press) which they, and I, consider the first edition was published by P. P. Werlein, New Orleans, in 1861. It credits W. H. Peters with the words and J. E. Viereck with the music. There is no plate number on this first printing; later similar editions by the same publisher bear the plate number 549. All are rare.

The only possibility I can think of for the "Greenbacks" item is Mrs. John E. Cleary, 412 N. Elmwood Road, Omaha, Nebraska 68132.

LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208

August 27, 1982

Dear Eric:

Many thanks for your letter of August 24, advising that you "followed through" on my request re Dr. Galkin and the St. Louis Conservatory.

I hope Mr. Norwood's committee will make a wise selection.

Kindest regards

Sincerely,

Lester S. Levy

LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21208

February 9, 1987

Dear Dick,

For once you will get a letter from Baltimore having nothing to do with the family (except reporting the arrival last night of a baby daughter to Susie Patz Poole) or about the apartment.

A friend of mine has asked whether I can get him any information about a blind Negro pianist named "Blind Poole" who lived in Missouri around 1900. Do you think Eric Newman might possibly have any information about this character? Shall I write him or will you show him this letter?

Haven't seen the kids lately but Eleanor keeps in touch. We spoke to Millie a few days ago. She has not yet made any decisions about herself.

We hope that Judy is O.K. and that she will soon have nothing further to bother her.

Love to you both in which Aunt Ellie joins.

Fondly,

Uncle Lester

Blind William Poole died 1927

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

February 18, 1987

Mr. Lester S. Levy
2 Slade Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208

Dear Mr. Levy:

Dick Wyman turned over to me your letter of February 9, 1987, inquiring about "Blind Poole". I was delighted to hear that you are still researching and that was music to my ears. I contacted my friend, Trebor Tichenor, [redacted], who furnished me with the following comments: He has never heard of Blind Poole, but he is very familiar with Blind Boone. Blind Boone was John William Boone, originally of Warrensburg, Missouri, and who died in Columbia, Missouri, in 1927. He was a child prodigy in music and later traveled the country, entertained and made a standing offer of $1,000 to anyone who could play a piece of music that he could not promptly repeat. He never had to pay off. Before him there was another musician in this area by the name of Blind Tom. Both were black.

If more information is required, please have your friend contact Trebor.

I hope I have been helpful. Evelyn joins me in sending our very best to you.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

cc: Dick Wyman

LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21208

March 6, 1987

Dear Eric,

Thank you so much for your letter of February 18, which I did not answer earlier because I wanted to give the information to a friend of mine who was on vacation. Incidentally he is a retired corporate lawyer from New York, whose antecedents came from Missouri and who will probably some day leave a nice collection of early sheet music to the University of Missouri.

If you are still interested yourself in collecting popular music, you may want to hear about a piece that I turned up in an old bound volume last week. Apparently the owner had some connection with St. Louis because the book contained several pieces published in St. Louis in the 1860s. There was one which would have whetted my appetite if I had not already given away my collection. It was an 1867 musical number from "The Black Crook," with a crude but charming colored lithograph of one of the ballet numbers. It was published by Compdon and Dean. Unfortunately the bottom was trimmed so I could not see the name of the lithographer, though it might have been McLean of St. Louis.

I would have been glad to pay the dealer $50 for the piece. I think she would sell the entire book for around $60 or $65, if you were interested. Her name is Drusilla Jones and she has a book store on Howard Street in Baltimore. Would you like me to ask her to contact you, if she has not yet disposed of the book?

I hope you and Evelyn have been well. Eleanor and I send you both our good wishes.

Sincerely,

Lester S. Levy

Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21208

March 13, 1987

Dear Eric,

It eas a pleasure to receive your call this week and I am glad to learn that you are still an interested collector. Although there may not be much of special interest to you in the Hopkins Handbook, I have asked them to mail you one.

As for the St. Louis music, I told the dealer that you would be willing to pay up to $60 for the book. At any rate, the dealer had someone else interested in it and will need his refusal before she mails it to you. I think there is a fair chance of your getting it as the other inquiry came from a dealer who, naturally, is not going to pay the price that could be secured from a regular customer.

The dealer is Mrs. Drusilla Jones, 202 W. Seminary Avenue, Lutherville, MD 21093.

I hope we will be seeing each other one of these days. Meanwhile, with all good wishes to you and Evelyn, in which Eleanor joins, I am,

Sincerely,

Lester

Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

April 13, 1987

Mr. Lester S. Levy
2 Slade Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208

Dear Lester:

I received with delight the guide to your music collection and thank you very much for it. It has better significance for me in that it has a section on Money. It indicates that there are 106 items. How would I go about getting a list of these 106 items from the university? Do they have an inventory of which a photocopy could be made? I have never heard from the book dealer that had the item you were nice enough to call to my attention.

She sold it.

I also notice the St. Louis Grand March which is illustrated in your book as the first piece of music published west of the Mississippi in 1839.

You should be very proud of your accomplishment in the sheet music field, not only to have collected and studied it, but to have written about it in such a popular and inspiring manner.

Evelyn joins me in sending you our best wishes.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

LESTER S. LEVY
2 SLADE AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21208

April 24, 1987

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. L9uis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I appreciate the generous remarks made in your letter of April 13.

To attempt to acquire a list of the 106 items in my "Money" section it would be necessary for you first to write to the Special Collections Department of the Eisenhower Library at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218. You might indicate that if they were willing to run off an extra copy of the indexed cards, you would be willing to pay for them, because I feel sure there would be some expense involved.

We see Dick Wyman occasionally since, as you know, he has business affairs which bring him to Baltimore.

I hope you and your family are well. Maybe we will have the opportunity to see you and Evelyn again one of these days.

With all good wishes from Eleanor and

Fondly,

Lester

Lester S. Levy

LSL:ew

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

February 16, 1988

Mr. Lester Levy
2 Slade Avenue
Pikesville, MD 21208

Dear Lester:

I was reaading a Baltimore newspaper of 150 years ago and by serendipity came across the enclosed article which I thought would give you a smile. If you want do anything further to follow it up, please feel free to do so.

Cordially,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.